

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the September 10, 2008 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. HUD Waterworks Playground
2. Willig Field Project
3. Donations in support of Holiday Light Display
4. Bell Tower Rebuild
5. Park Brochure Development

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Thank you letter received from the Red Ribbon Celebration Committee of Stark County
2. Camp Trinity requesting to use Stadium, Monument and possibly Waterworks Park on Saturday, April 25, 2009, to hold a walking event
3. Trinity Gospel Temple requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 1, 2009, to hold their annual Drug Free Rally
4. American Cancer Society requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on October 19, 2008 to hold their annual "Making Strides" event
5. Director requesting approval to allow the trapping of muskrat and raccoon in the Park System for the 2008-2009 season
6. Director requesting approval for the Assistant Director and himself to attend the Environmental Conference held by Stark Parks in November
7. Possible salary adjustment for Sergeant Swihart
8. Mallonn Park Playground

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2008

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; Mr. J. Angelo, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary. There were also many guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. HUD Waterworks Playground - President Black asked the Director to review the HUD playground grant to bring everyone up-to-date as to where the grant and playground plan originated from to where it is today.

The Director informed the crowd that the playground plan was developed for Waterworks Park after a failed effort to establish a New Mother Gooseland at the site. Under the previous administration, the Director was asked for any plan that existed for inclusion into a package that was going to be submitted to HUD for a possible grant.

The Waterworks playground plan was the one that was approved by HUD.

City Council had approved an ordinance to accept the grant for the Waterworks Park location; however, that ordinance had to be renewed by Council in 2008. At that time some concerns were raised by Council as to the Waterworks location with Mr. Casar suggesting it be moved to Stadium Park, and Mr. West suggesting it be moved to Nimisilla Park.

Mr. Black then stated that at this point a legal opinion has been suggested with regard to the Park Commission's authority to have final say over the location. He also stated he thought this issue was the same issue involved with the Putt Putt facility proposed a couple of years ago where the Law Director stated the Board did have such authority.

Mr. Angelo stated he thought the Board should wait until the Law Director issues his opinion. He stated that a month ago we were just worried about saving the grant. If the playground was not to be in Waterworks Park, he felt the Board should take its time in picking another location.

Mr. Winberry stated he agreed that the Board should wait for the opinion. Mr. Black then stated he agreed that waiting for the opinion would be wise. He stated that from the last Board meeting he had not yet met with the Parks and Recreation Committee or explored other park locations. Councilmember Casar stated he did ask for the opinion and would like to see that, but based on previous legal opinions, he felt that the Park Board did have the authority. He stated the final location of the playground was up to the Park Board. He also stated the current ordinance under consideration did not specify a location.

Mr. Black stated the legal opinion should address all the issues. He felt that the opinion should cover if the Park Commission was obligated to comply with City Council's informal resolutions or City ordinances where they conflict with the authority of the Park Commission. The Director was instructed to notify the Law Director of the expanded question. Councilman West explained that he had asked for an informal Council resolution to place the playground at Nimisilla because at the last Park Commission meeting there was to be a meeting with Mr. Casar's Council Committee about a possible new location, and then he was informed that the new location was going to be Stadium Park.

Councilman West stated that he felt both Stadium and Nimisilla Parks were good locations; however he thought Nimisilla Park was the better choice. He stated that HUD usually approves areas such as Nimisilla Park for programs.

Mr. Angelo pointed out that HUD had originally approved the Waterworks Park location.

Mr. West stated he did not believe any location was stated in the grant request. He stated that Mr. Torres had said there was no location listed in the grant. Mr. Casar stated he thought there was a location listed in the grant request.

Mr. Angelo stated he felt the Board needed to be very serious about where a playground this size went. All things should be considered like: are there handicapped bathrooms in the area? Mr. Black stated there had been no major investments at Waterworks Park. While Nimisilla Park could use additional upgrades, there had been some improvements there in recent years. He stated there would be capital requests for more play equipment.

Mr. John Stone stated he felt that Nimisilla Park should be chosen as the location. He stated he felt Nimisilla Park was the heart of the City. Ms. Erica Thom stated she was a member of a group looking to improve Cook and Nimisilla Parks in order to make them more useful to the residents, and she liked the Nimisilla Park location.

Mr. Angelo asked if anyone from the Board had been a part of any of these plans.

Mr. Black stated that Councilmember West had brought some ideas to the Board a few years ago. Funding was, of course, always an issue for plans of any kind. He mentioned the possible move of the Park System lay area and what a hurdle that had been.

Ms. Julie Sparks stated that the neighborhood group started long range plans sometime ago. They received a grant for an overview of improvements for the neighborhood. The first project that has been started was the Mahoning Rd. improvement project. She stated the group had supported putting the HUD play area at Nimisilla Park as they too thought there might be a chance the City would lose the grant.

Mr. Angelo stated the Board should be involved with any plans being talked about or planned that involve the parks. Ms. Sparks told the Board that there were talks involving the Stark Community Foundation and the possibility of getting an NFL grant to get a field constructed.

Mr. Black stated Councilmembers West and Smith had brought up the idea of an NFL grant in the past with both old Riverside and Nimisilla Parks as possible locations. Mr. Stone stated he felt that the more rebuilding done in the area of Nimisilla Park the less crime there would be there.

Mr. Casar stated that once the new legal opinion was issued he would bring the authorizing ordinance for the HUD grant out of committee.

Mr. Angelo made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting. A second was provided by L. Winberry.

The vote was as follows: Mr. Black, yes; Mr. Winberry, yes; Mr. Angelo, yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Angelo asked the Director to provide the Board a usage report on different possible locations for the HUD play area before the next meeting.

Ms. Nadine Sawaya, Recreation Director, asked if the HUD plan could be changed? She stated that the play areas need to be designed for all kids, and this one was not. The Director stated that the current plan was not now, nor has it ever been, designed exclusively for children with handicaps. It was designed for all, but with accessibility specifically in mind.

2. Willig Field Project - The Director reported that the storm water collection basins had been constructed. He had met with Rice's Nursery to develop a planting plan for them and a cost estimate. Due to the time of year, the planting would not be until next spring.

Ms. Sawaya asked if the basins not being planted until next spring would hold up the use of the fields. The Director stated that they were not a part of the playing field so he did not think so.

Ms. Sawaya asked if the parking lot was at final grade. The Director stated it was, but would need some new material. It was pointed out that the original plan called for the parking area to be paved. Mr. Black asked the Director to get a price on completing the parking lot and include it in the capital request for FY 2009.

Ms. Sparks stated they just wanted the fields done for spring.

Ms. Sawaya also brought up that there was still some seeding to be done, and they were still waiting on instructions on operating the water system. The Director was instructed to get a letter from the Law Department to the contractor to try and get the seeding and instruction done this fall.

Ms. Sawaya told the Board that they had purchased the concession equipment, were having carpet installed upstairs, and had a security system installed.

Councilmember Carbenia stated there had been more than the original estimate spent on the project and would not like to see any more spent there.

3. Donations in support of Holiday Light Display - The Director stated he had not as yet heard from the Law Department with regard to this issue.

Mr. Carbenia stated he had a couple of meetings about looking for donors and how to thank them.

4. Bell Tower Rebuild - Ms. Bonnie Popa, Canton Garden Center President, told the Board that they had obtained the funding to refurbish the bell tower. They were signing with the Kegg Company, and the work should be done by Holly Pine Lane.

She stated they would be meeting with the Director about other bell tower issues.

The Board thanked Ms. Popa for their efforts.

5. Park Brochure Development - The Director stated the brochure would be a springtime project.

Mr. Black suggested the taking of some fall pictures.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Thank you letter received from the Red Ribbon Celebration Committee of Stark County - The Board received and filed this letter.
2. Camp Trinity requesting to use Stadium, Monument and possibly Waterworks Park on Saturday, April 25, 2009, to hold a walking event - The Board reviewed this request. A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. Trinity Gospel Temple requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 1, 2009, to hold their annual Drug Free Rally - The Board discussed this request, and a motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
4. American Cancer Society requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on October 19, 2008 to hold their annual "Making Strides" event - The Board reviewed this request, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
5. Director requesting approval to allow the trapping of muskrat and raccoon in the Park System for the 2008-2009 season - After a short discussion, a motion was made by A. Black to approve this request. A second was made by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
6. Director requesting approval for the Assistant Director and himself to attend the Environmental Conference held by Stark Parks in November - A motion was made by A. Black to approve this request. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
8. Mallonn Park Playground - The Director provided to the Board a report on surfacing options required by Mr. Angelo.

Mr. Carbenia stated that the bathroom structure ordinance was still in committee. Some in Council objected to the cost. He said the trades may be willing to build a bathroom and that he was going to meet with the Building Department and the trades.

Mr. Black reminded Mr. Carbenia that he had suggested in the past the idea of using existing plans and asking the trades to construct it. What he did not want was something cheap.

Mr. Carbenia stated he had a copy of some existing plans to discuss.

There was a short discussion with regard to the surfacing options. Ms. Sawaya stating she liked the use of EWF. Mr. Black talked of the level of maintenance required for a rubber surface.

Mr. Angelo asked about rubber surfacing at Garaux and Green Acres. The Director also mentioned King Park.

The Director stated he was working on a new playground plan for Mallonn Park. Ms. Sawaya stated she would like to be involved with that project. Mr. Angelo asked where the play area that was planned for Mallonn was placed. The Director stated it had been moved to Bup Rearick Park and installation had begun.

The Director also stated he was trying to obtain a grant that was available through an equipment maker to help pay for a new play area plan for Mallonn Park. He also stated he had asked the Law Department to review some changes in state law that might allow the City to purchase play equipment and surfacing through a purchase plan called U.S. Communities. If the Law Department said it was all right, then it could save a good bit of money.

President Black asked if any guests had anything else to say to the Board.

Ms. Sparks stated she would like to start a conversation between the neighborhood group and the Board. Mr. Black stated the Board would be glad to work with the group and meet about issues involving the park.

Councilman West stated that from an economics standpoint we need to bring people into town, unlike the HOF where people just hit that and then leave.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Plain Local Baseball Association requesting to use the Covered Bridge ball fields, the Oak Park ball field, and the Arboretum Park field to practice on for their March through July, 2009 season.

A motion to approve the request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Director reported to the Board that the City Engineer stated that the Countywide Trail underpass under Tuscarawas St. Would be done this fall.

The Director also reported that the property south of Lesh Rd. had been obtained by the City for use as a drainage control area and park; however, no request had as yet been received asking the Park Commission to take control and management of the property.

The Board returned at this point to Item 7 of New Business.

7. Possible salary adjustment for Sergeant Swihart - The Director reminded the Board that when Sergeant Swihart was hired, he was told there may be a review of his salary in three to six months. It has now been four months, and he asked the Board if they wished to take any action on the issue.

The Board that with the current financial situation as it was, they would take no action at this time.

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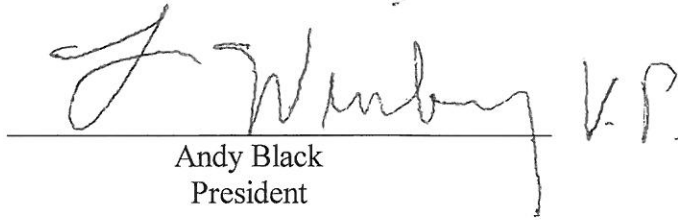
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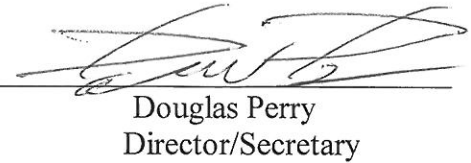
The Board that with the current financial situation as it was, they would take no action at this time.

The Director was instructed to budget for a possible 3% raise for Sergeant Swihart for FY 2009 should a general raise be given to all management employees that had been promised.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary